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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/659,614	09/10/2003	Michael R. Smith	CIS0196US	5551
33031 7590 02/05/2008 CAMPBELL STEPHENSON LLP 11401 CENTURY OAKS TERRACE BLDG. H, SUITE 250 AUSTIN, TX 78758			EXAMINER CHAI, LONGBIT.	
			ART UNIT 2131	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 02/05/2008	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/659,614

Applicant(s)

SMITH, MICHAEL R.

Examiner

Longbit Chai

Art Unit

2131

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on RCE on 11/13/2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 55-74 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 55-74 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 10 September 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Currently pending claims are 55 – 74.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

2. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 11/13/2007 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 55 – 60, 62, 63, 65 – 68 and 70 – 73 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cheng et al. (U.S. Patent 6,823,462), in view of Kuhn et al. (U.S. Patent 6,023,765).

As per claim 55, 65 and 70, Cheng teaches method comprising:

populating an access control list with a destination user group identifier, wherein said destination user group identifier identifies a destination user group of a destination (Cheng: Column 5 Line 31 – 38 and Column 6 Line 63 – 65: the group / category rules-based database is qualified as an access control list with a destination group name / ID that requires a common security policy with the source nodes to allow the data flows between the nodes),

said access control list comprises a source user group field configured to store a source user group identifier and a destination user group field configured to store a destination user group identifier, said source user group comprises a plurality of source network devices, said destination user group comprises a plurality of destination network devices (Cheng: Column 5 Line 36 – 38 and Column 6 Line 2 – 6 & Figure 5: the local ID is considered as the source group ID and the remote ID is interpreted as the destination group ID), said source user group is assigned to said source based on a role of said source (see Kuhn below), and

said access control list is configured to allow said source user group identifier and said destination user group identifier to be compared (Cheng: Column 6 Line 63 – 65: only those source / destination group identifiers that match the same traffic profile policies are allowed to flow between the nodes).

Kuhn teaches said source user group is assigned to said source based on a role of said source (Kuhn: Column 2 Line 27 – 34, Column 1 Line 54 – 60, Column 3 Line 42 – 48 and Column 4 Line 41 – 45: In role-based access control (RBAC) systems, access to an object within a computer system is provided to the members of groups termed "roles"; all subjects belonging to a given role have the same privileges to access various objects within the system and, with RBAC, security is managed at a level that corresponds closely to the organization's structure according to each user's role. This is also consistent with the disclosure of the instant specification "the user's user group is identified and assigned to the user as a source group tag

(SGT), which corresponds to the user's role (e.g., engineering, management, marketing, sales or the like)" (SPEC: Page 21 / Para [0079]).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teaching of Kuhn within the system of Cheng because (a) Cheng teaches a means to identify a source user group by using a look-up table to match a source address with a source group identifier at a proxy-server network device (Cheng: Column 5 Line 31 – 38 and Column 6 Line 63 – 65) and (b) Kuhn teaches proposing a more efficient method of role-based access control (RBAC) systems where access to an object within a computer system is provided to the members of groups termed "roles" that can offer the advantages to greatly simplify the process required in response to a change of job status of individuals within an organization that can be then realized without loss of the security needs (Kuhn: Column 2 Line 27 – 34, Column 1 Line 54 – 60, Column 3 Line 42 – 48 and Column 4 Line 41 – 45).

As per claim 56, Cheng as modified teaches said destination user group is assigned to said destination based on a role of said destination (Cheng: Column 7 Line 26 – 30: with respect to "security" role) & (Kuhn: Column 2 Line 27 – 34, Column 1 Line 54 – 60, Column 3 Line 42 – 48 and Column 4 Line 41 – 45).

As per claim 57, Cheng as modified teaches said populating is performed by a network device and comprises sending a request to another network device, and receiving a response from said another network device, wherein said response includes said destination user group identifier, and said destination user group identifier identifies said destination user group (Cheng: Column 7 Line 35 – 40 and Column 8 Line 5 – 6).

As per claim 58, 66 and 71, Cheng as modified teaches comparing a user group of a packet with said destination user group (Cheng: Column 6 Line 63 – 65: only those source / destination group identifiers that match the same traffic profile policies are allowed to flow between the nodes).

As per claim 59, 67 and 72, Cheng as modified teaches said user group of said packet is a source user group, said destination user group is a user group of a destination of said packet, and said destination is said destination of said packet (Cheng: Column 5 Line 36 – 38 and Column 6 Line 2 – 6 & Figure 5: the local ID is considered as the source group ID and the remote ID is interpreted as the destination group ID that associates with a packet).

As per claim 60, Cheng as modified teaches said source user group is assigned to a source of said packet based on a role of said source, and said destination user group is assigned to said destination based on a role of said destination (Cheng: Column 7 Line 26 – 30: with respect to “security” role) & (Kuhn: Column 2 Line 27 – 34, Column 1 Line 54 – 60, Column 3 Line 42 – 48 and Column 4 Line 41 – 45).

As per claim 62, 68 and 73, Cheng as modified teaches determining said source user group; and determining said destination user group by looking up said destination user group in an access control list (Cheng: Column 5 Line 31 – 38 and Column 6 Line 63 – 65: the look-up table is considered as the group / category rules-based database, which is qualified as an access control list with a destination group name / ID that requires a common security policy with the source nodes to allow the data flows between the nodes).

As per claim 63, Cheng as modified teaches said access control list is a role-based access control list (Cheng: Column 7 Line 26 – 30: i.e., “security” role based) & (Kuhn: Column 2 Line 27 – 34, Column 1 Line 54 – 60, Column 3 Line 42 – 48 and Column 4 Line 41 – 45).

4. Claims 61, 64, 69 and 74 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cheng et al. (U.S. Patent 6,823,462), in view of Kuhn et al. (U.S. Patent 6,023,765), and in view of Li (U.S. Patent 6,711,172).

As per claim 61, Cheng as modified teaches said destination user group is indicated by a destination user group and said source user group is indicated by a source user group identifier (Cheng: Column 5 Line 31 – 38 and Column 6 Line 63 – 65). However, Cheng does not teach a source user group identifier stored in said packet.

Li teaches a source user group identifier stored in said packet (Li: Column 4 Line 8 – 13: a pair of group / source address on the packet is used to route the packet).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teaching of Li within the system of Cheng as modified because (a) Cheng teaches a means to identify a source user group by using a look-up table to match a source address with a source group identifier at a proxy-server network device (Cheng: Column 5 Line 31 – 38 and Column 6 Line 63 – 65) and (b) Li teaches proposing a more efficient method routing the packet from a source to group members by encoding a pair of group / source address directly on the packet (Li: Column 3 Line 34 – 42 / Line 20 – 23 / Line 1 – 4 and Column 4 Line 8 – 13).

As per claim 64, 69 and 74, Cheng as modified teaches said source user group identifier identifies said source user group (Cheng: Column 5 Line 31 – 38 and Column 6 Line 63 – 65). However, Cheng does not teach extracting a source user group identifier from said packet.

Li teaches extracting a source user group identifier from said packet (Li: Column 4 Line 8 – 13: a pair of group / source address on the packet is used to route the packet and thereby, a source user group identifier can thus be extracted from the packet accordingly). See same rationale of combination applied herein as above in rejecting the claim 61.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Longbit Chai whose telephone number is 571-272-3788. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 9:00am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ayaz R. Sheikh can be reached on 571-272-3795. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Longbit Chai, Ph.D.
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2131
1/24/2008